

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A personalized media service device for producing media on demand, comprising a media selection interface for receiving a media request from a user and printing a hardcopy of said media request.
2. The personalized media service device of claim 1, wherein said media selection interface comprises:
 - a memory for storing media data;
 - a printer device for printing said hardcopy of said media request;
 - an input device for retrieving information from a user;
 - a display device for displaying lists of available media selections and input options;
 - at least one communications port for communicating with a remote device; and
 - a central processing unit for communicating with said memory, said printer device, said input device, said display device, and said at least one communications port.
3. The personalized media service device of claim 2, further comprising media stored in a data format in said memory for retrieval by said central processing unit and printing by said printer device.
4. The personalized media service device of claim 2, further comprising a service provider for communicating with said central processing unit through said at least one communications port for receiving said information from a user and providing media in a data format to said media selection interface.
5. The personalized media service device of claim 4, wherein said service provider comprises:
 - a computer for communicating with said central processing unit;
 - at least one user profile database for storing demographic information about users of said personalized media service device received from said central processing unit; and
 - at least one database of available media selections and corresponding media selection retrieval information for providing media in said data format to said central processing unit.

6. The personalized media service device of claim 5, wherein said stored demographic information about a user in said user profile database is information selected from the group consisting of gender, age, hobbies, interests, income, profession, education, marital status, vehicles owned, sports played, consumer goods owned, services used, and user preferences.

7. The personalized media service device of claim 4, further comprising at least one content provider in communication with said service provider for providing media in said data format to said service provider in response to said retrieved information.

8. The personalized media service device of claim 7, wherein said at least one content provider comprises a media publisher computer for storing and transmitting said media in said data format to said service provider.

9. The personalized media service device of claim 2, further comprising an authentication device for communicating with said central processing unit for identifying a user of said personalized media service.

10. A method of creating a hardcopy media selection for a user, comprising:
providing the user a menu of available media selections for choosing a desired media selection for creation;
identifying a media selection made by the user;
retrieving a data format copy of said media selection; and
printing a hardcopy of said media selection from said data format copy of said media selection.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said providing the user a menu of available media selections for choosing a desired media selection for creation comprises:
providing a user interface having a touch screen display; and
displaying said menu of available media selections on said touch screen display.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said providing the user a menu of available media selections for choosing a desired media selection for creation comprises:
providing a user interface comprising a display device and an input device;
displaying a search field on said display device for displaying a search phrase entered by said user with said input device;
displaying a search button on said display device for activation by said user with said input device;
detecting activation of said search button;
creating a customized list of available media selections from said menu of available media selections based upon said search phrase upon activation of said search button; and
displaying said customized list of available media selections on said display device.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein said providing the user a menu of available media selections for choosing a desired media selection for creation comprises:
establishing a connection between a computer and a service provider using the internet;
linking said computer to a menu page stored in a memory of said service provider;
retrieving a list of available media selections from said memory of said service provider;
displaying said list of available media selections on said menu page linked to said computer;
and
prompting said user to choose one of said available media selections.

14. A method of creating a hardcopy of a media selection made by a user, comprising:
providing a media selection interface including a central processing unit, a display device for displaying available media selections to the user, a memory, an input device, a printer device, and at least one communications port;
retrieving a list of available media selections from said memory of said media selection interface;
displaying at least a portion of said available media selections on said display device of said media selection interface;
prompting said user to use said input device to input a media request from said displayed available media selections;
obtaining said media request from said user;
communicating said media request to a service provider using said at least one communications port;
determining a content provider to query for an electronic copy of media associated with said media request from a database accessible to said service provider;
querying said determined content provider for said electronic copy of media associated with said media request; and
communicating said electronic copy of media associated with said media request to said central processing unit of said media selection interface using said service provider and said at least one communications port.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising printing a hardcopy of said electronic copy of media associated with said media request on said printer device of said media selection interface.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said retrieving a list of available media selections from said memory of said media selection interface comprises:
retrieving a list of newspapers available to said media selection interface from said service provider; and
retrieving a list of magazines available to said media selection interface from said service provider.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
displaying the total cost of said media request on said display device of said media selection interface;
prompting said user to make a payment for said media request; and
verifying payment of said payment for said media request before communicating said media request to said service provider.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising identifying said user before retrieving a list of available media selections.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising debiting a user's account for the cost of said media request following said printing of said hardcopy of said media request.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said querying said determined content provider for an electronic copy of said media selection comprises:
retrieving a set of user preferences corresponding to said user identity from a user profile database;
querying said determined content provider for said electronic copy of media associated with said media request;
including said set of user preferences with said query; and
creating a customized electronic copy of media associated with said media request based upon said set of user preferences.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said identifying said user comprises:
displaying a user log-in request on said display device of said media selection interface;
prompting said user to enter log-in information using said input device of said media selection interface;
communicating said log-in information to said service provider using said at least one communications port;
comparing said log-in information to at least one user profile database accessible to said service provider to determine an identity of said user;
authorizing use of the media selection interface when said identity of said user is determined;
and
prompting said user to register a user profile in said user profile database if said identity of said user is not determined and authorizing use of the media selection interface following completion of said registration of said user profile.

22. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
identifying said user before retrieving a list of available media selections; and
retrieving a list of user preferences corresponding to said user identity from a user profile
database accessible to said service provider and storing said user preferences in said
memory of said media selection interface.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said displaying at least a portion of said
available media selections on said display device of said media selection interface comprises:
comparing said list of available media selections to said user preferences retrieved from said
user profile database;
creating a customized list of available media selections based upon said user preferences; and
displaying at least a portion of said customized list of available media selections on said
display device of said media selection interface.